



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Chief of Biological Survey. From Yearbook of Department of Agriculture for 1911. Pp. 154-164.

The place is Laysan Island, but the other islands of the reservation are also mentioned. The paper is a short resume of the Nutting expedition, with a comparison of the conditions then and previously. It is so interesting that the reader is gripped with the desire to visit the island in person.

L. J.

The Shore Birds of Santa Barbara. By J. Hooper Bowles and Alfred B. Howell. With three photos by Bowles and one by Dawson. Reprinted from *The Condor*, Vol. XIV, Jan. 1912. Pp. 4-11.

There are here listed twenty-nine species, which is a remarkably large list for any locality of such restricted area. In the whole of Ohio, to make comparisons, there have been but 36 species of Shore Birds recorded. This list also well illustrates the cosmopolitan character of many of the species of this order. While the list is largely concerned with times of occurrence there are some other interesting notes relating to the habits of the birds.

L. J.

The Relation of Birds to an Insect Outbreak in Northern California During the Spring and Summer of 1911. By Harold C. Bryant, Fellow in Applied Zoölogy on the Fish and Game Commission Foundation in the University of California. With four photos by the author. Reprinted from *The Condor*, Vol. XIII, Nov. 1911. Pp. 195-208.

The insect outbreak here referred to was a "remarkable plague of caterpillars, followed by a pest of butterflies, that has existed the past spring and summer (1911) in the northern counties of California, especially in Siskyou County." The insect was *Eugonia californica*, and the birds found feeding upon it were Brewer's Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Western Kingbird, Blue-fronted Jay, and Say's Phoebe. Of these Brewer's Blackbird was the most efficient check, both on account of the numbers of individuals and because its food consisted of 95% of butterflies. Domestic birds also helped greatly in reducing the pest. We have here a concrete case upon which to base conclusions as to the value of birds to agricultural interests.

L. J.

The English Sparrow as a Pest. By Ned Dearborn, Expert Biologist, Biological Survey. *Farmers' Bulletin* 493, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Issued April 20, 1912.

The discussion covers 24 pages, a considerable of the space being occupied with cuts of traps and a discussion of their uses.

The paper is a practical one and of both interest and value. The author summarizes the paper: "English Sparrows are abundant in most of the towns in the United States and in many suburban districts. They are noisy, filthy, and destructive. They drive native birds from villages and homesteads. Though they are occasionally valuable as destroyers of noxious insects, all things considered, they do far more harm than good. Practicable methods of dealing with them include destruction of nests, shooting, trapping, and poisoning. Of these, trapping is unquestionably the best. English Sparrows are good to eat, and their use as food is recommended because of their nutritive value and as a means of reducing their numbers."

L. J.

Some Common Game, Aquatic, and Rapacious Birds in Relation to Man. By W. L. McAtee and F. E. L. Beal, Assistants, Biological Survey. Farmers' Bulletin 497. Department of Agriculture. Issued May 6, 1912.

Besides the interest which this 30-page pamphlet elicits on account of its practical value to the interests of agriculture, there is the unusual interest which attaches to the appearance of figures from the pencil of a new bird artist. In this case none other than the writer's acquaintance and friend, Robert J. Sim. We say "new bird artist," but we remind the reader that Mr. Sim is not an entire stranger to readers of *The Wilson Bulletin*, for it contains reproductions from his hand. Of the fourteen figures in this pamphlet ten bear the signature of Mr. Sim. We heartily welcome him to the arena.

L. J.

The Flight of Birds. By F. W. Headley. With sixteen plates and many text-figures. Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, London. 12mo. 163 pages. Price 5s., net.

Mr. Headley is clearly well posted in aeronautics, and it is therefore fitting that he should find the flight of birds an interesting subject. The book is interestingly written and the illustrations are selected to bring out certain points in the discussion. We have seen pictures that seemed to better illustrate the flight of birds, or at least appealed to the eye more strongly. On the whole the book is a valuable contribution to the discussion of bird flight.

L. J.

Birds of North and Middle America. By R. Ridgway. (Part V.)

The fifth volume of this monumental work treats of the Families Pteroptochidæ (1 species), Formicariidæ (66 species and sub-